

Serial No. 09/826,325

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-4. (cancelled)

5. **(currently amended)** A protective packaging sheet, consisting of a single material layer having a repeating pattern, the repeating pattern comprising:

shaped protuberances juxtaposed with each other to provide a valley around each of said shaped protuberances, the shaped protuberances being positioned in such a way that every straight line projected onto said sheet cuts through at least one of the shaped protuberances; and

~~A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the repeating pattern further comprises connecting webs connecting adjacent said shaped protuberances, said connecting webs being located at a middle level between tops of the shaped protuberances and bottoms of the valleys uppermost and lowermost levels of said sheet.~~

6. (previously amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 5, wherein some of the connecting webs extend in a first direction and others extend in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

7. **(currently amended)** A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim + 5, wherein the shaped protuberances are tessellatable.

[8. (cancelled)]

9. **(currently amended)** A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim + 5, wherein said material is thermoplastics, and a distance between uppermost and lowermost levels of said sheet is less than or equal to about 5 times a thickness of said material layer.

4/6/00

[Serial No. 09/826,325]

10. **(currently amended)** A protective packaging sheet, comprising a material layer
~~front and rear surfaces, at least one of the surfaces~~ having a repeating pattern therein;

the repeating pattern comprising shaped protuberances juxtaposed with each other to
provide a gap around each of said shaped protuberances, the shaped protuberances being positioned
in such a way that every straight line projected onto said sheet cuts through at least one of the
shaped protuberances ~~and at least one of the gaps~~;

wherein

the gaps between the shaped protuberances are filled with insulating foam;

said foam defines, at least partially, a planar contacting face of said sheet; and

said planar contacting face extends substantially throughout an entire area of said sheet.

C1
contd
[11. (cancelled)]

12. **(currently amended)** A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 10, wherein
each of the shaped protuberances comprises a top surface atop side walls which are rounded,
beveled or sloped relative to a direction perpendicular to a plane of the packaging sheet.

13. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein the
top surfaces of said shaped protuberances together with said foam filled in said gaps define the a
substantially planar contacting face.

14. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said
foam overfills said gaps and defines entirely said planar contacting face so as to protrude beyond an
~~outermost face of said shaped protuberances.~~

[15. (cancelled)]

[Serial No. 09/826,325]

16. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim 13, further comprising printed indicia on said ~~substantially~~ planar contacting face.

17. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said foam is presented on both opposite sides of said material layer ~~the front and rear surfaces of said sheet, at levels coelevational with outermost points of the front and rear surfaces.~~

18. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said sheet material layer is made of a hardened thermoplastic ~~material~~.

CL
cont'd
19. **(previously added)** The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of about 57 lbf/in² without being flattened.

20. **(previously added)** The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of from about 390 to less than about 500 lbf/in² without being totally flattened.

21. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim + 5, wherein said material layer is made of hardened thermoplastic.

22. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim + 5, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of about 57 lbf/in² without being flattened.

{ Serial No. 09/826,325 }

23. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim + 5, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of from about 390 to less than about 500 lbf/in² without being totally flattened.

24. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim + 5, wherein said material layer has a material thickness of from about 0.5 to about 1 mm.

25. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim + 5, wherein an initial thickness of said sheet is defined as a distance between outermost portions on opposite sides thereof when no load is applied on said sheet, said material layer having an elasticity sufficient to allow said sheet to regain at least 70 % of the initial thickness after said sheet being completely flattened.

26. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim + 5, wherein an initial thickness of said sheet is defined as a distance between outermost portions on opposite sides thereof when no load is applied on said sheet, said material layer having an elasticity sufficient to allow said sheet to regain from about 70 to about 80 % of the initial thickness after said sheet being completely flattened.

[27-28. (cancelled)]

29. **(currently amended)** A protective packaging sheet, comprising a material thermoplastic layer that is shaped to have a repeating pattern, wherein

the repeating pattern comprises shaped protuberances juxtaposed with each other to provide a gap valley around each of said shaped protuberances, the shaped protuberances being positioned in such a way that every straight line projected onto said sheet cuts through at least one of the shaped protuberances ~~and at least one of the gaps~~; and

[Serial No. 09/826,325]

the material layer is made of a thermoplastic that layer has a sufficient strength to maintain the repeating pattern when no external force is acting on said ~~layer~~ thermoplastic; and

each of said shaped protuberances has a top and at least one side wall extending downwardly from the top and ending at a bottom of the respective valley surrounding said shaped protuberance, said repeating pattern further comprising connecting webs connecting adjacent said shaped protuberances, said connecting webs being located at a middle level between the tops of the shaped protuberances and the bottoms of the valleys.

30. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein ~~each of said shaped protuberances has a top surface and side walls extending downwardly from the top surface~~, the top surfaces of said shaped protuberances together define a top contacting surface of said sheet, said sheet further having a bottom contacting surface downwardly spaced from said top contacting surface by a distance greater than a material thickness of said thermoplastic layer.

31. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 30, further comprising an additional material layer laminated to said thermoplastic layer and defining the bottom contacting surface.

32. **(currently amended)** The protective packaging sheet of claim 31, wherein said additional material layer defines entirely ~~and~~ the bottom contacting surface which is ~~are~~ substantially planar.

33. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 31, further comprising air trapped between said thermoplastic layer and said additional material layer.

34. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 32, further comprising air trapped between said thermoplastic layer and said additional material layer.

{ Serial No. 09/826,325 }

35. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of about 57 lbf/in² without being flattened.

36. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein said thermoplastic layer has a material thickness of from about 0.5 to about 1 mm.

37. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 30, wherein an initial thickness of said sheet is defined as the distance between said contacting surfaces when no load is applied on said sheet, said thermoplastic layer having an elasticity sufficient to allow said sheet to regain at least 70 % of the initial thickness after said sheet being completely flattened.

38. (new) The protective packaging sheet of claim 5, wherein a number of the connecting webs and the shaped protuberances being connected by said number of the connecting webs are aligned to define a straight cutting line which does not cut through the bottom of any of said valleys, thereby allowing said sheet to be cut along said straight cutting line easier than along any other line which cuts through the bottom of at least one of the valleys.

39. (new) The protective packaging sheet of claim 38, wherein the connecting webs and the shaped protuberances of said repeating pattern define a first group of said straight cutting lines extending in parallel in a first direction and a second group of said straight cutting lines extending in parallel in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

40. (new) The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein a number of the connecting webs and the shaped protuberances being connected by said number of the connecting webs are aligned to define a straight cutting line which does not cut through the bottom of any of

[Serial No. 09/826,325]

could
said valleys, ^{imp} thereby allowing said sheet to be cut along said straight cutting line easier than along any other line which cuts through the bottom of at least one of the valleys. ^{imp}
